Direct sale of domestic gas

2279. SHRI RAVULACHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed to sell domestic cooking gas directly to consumers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether consumers in rural areas will be given preferences in providing this gas; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Generally, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) sell domestic LPG cylinders to the consumers through their authorised LPG distributors throughout the country. However, OMCs have also started direct marketing of domestic LPG to widen their customer base and particularly to benefit the consumers in rural areas.

Import of LNG from Qatar

2280. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's petronet has signed a 25 year deal to import LNG from Qatar-based Rasgas and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the price formula has been settled and if not, how it would be determined over such a long period;

(c) whether it is a fact that the prices have been pegged to the price of crude oil and if so, the justification thereof;

(d) the reasons for not settling the price through gas to gas trade; ar\d

(e) whether the contract would be scrapped if the Qatar prices are higher than the domestic price?